

Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, November 21, 1834, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Mexico City, November 21, 1834.

. . . . A few days since the President had a convocation of Merchants and made a personal appeal to them for aid by loan. the heavy debt already due by the Mexican Government for money obtained from the Merchants, and the bad faith manifested in regard to payments promised has destroyed all confidence on the part of the lenders; and the late application for money was therefore unsuccessful, the Merchants asserting that they were themselves without the means. In the present state of Affairs Genl. Santa Anna *must have money* . the refusal of course irritated him excessively, and I am told produced a scene, and in which the president for a time lost sight of that dignity, which as Chief of a Great Nation (so they call themselves) should never have been pretermitted. I paid him a visit 22 next day and heard his complaints, concluding in his usual free manner with me, for we were alone, "Now my friend what shall I do, can you devise no plan by which money may be procured?" I replied that I thought there was a mode for supplying present wants, and suggested a plan of fiscal operations in aid of the emergency, with which he seemed much pleased, and greatly revived, and remarked with great vivacity, I will send Mr Alaman to you, and you and himself will discuss, and arrange the whole affair. Mr. Alaman was sent to me, and the outline of a system of fiscal operations was adopted to be completed hereafter and laid before Congress at their meeting on the 1st Jany. I mention all this more for the purpose of shewing you that Mr. Alaman will very soon be openly at the head of Genl. Santa Anna's Administration, as he is now privately his principal adviser, and through Mr. A. we may expect to obtain all we have a *right to ask* , the subjects of greatest

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interest to us is already understood between that Gentleman and myself. We have long since compared opinions, and if you will turn to the Note of a Conversation held with him in 1832,¹ and which I sent you in a private letter of that day, you will find what passed between us, and which was communicated precisely and literally as it took place. . . .

¹ See vol. IV., p. 463.